



July  
2015

## West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

**H**heavy rain caused rivers and creeks to rise quickly in late June, so we activated our flood emergency operations plan to address water from Walnut Creek and the Raccoon River. Thanks to some excellent work by our City departments, Raccoon River Park is now open and most streets that were covered with water and debris have been cleared and reopened.

I'm also happy to report that the West Des Moines Fireworks Display will be held as scheduled at dusk on Saturday, July 4, over Blue Heron Lake! Please remember that Grand Avenue is closed southwest of the park entrance to S. 50th Street, so please plan your route and allow for extra time (see the map on page 4).

Some Raccoon River Park facilities will need to remain closed until repairs are made and cleanup operations have been completed. If you have questions about the status of any facilities at the park, please visit us on Facebook or check out our redesigned [website](#) for additional information. We're transitioning to the new website right now, so you'll soon notice an entirely new look and feel that should make it easier for you to find the information you need.

### *We have a new Fire Chief*

You probably have heard by now that Craig Leu has accepted our offer to serve as our new Fire Chief. Leu replaces Don Cox, who retired last January after serving as chief for more than 14 years. Craig comes to us from Park City, Kansas, a suburb of Wichita, where he was in management for 11 years with the Sedgwick County Fire District #1. For more information, see the story on page 2. I'm excited to have him join our organization!

### *The Special Census has arrived*

If things go as planned, Census enumerators will be knocking on doors in our community in early July. I strongly encourage you to open your door and spend a few minutes answering the questions Census takers are asking all our residents. Your information is confidential, and it will allow West Des Moines to receive additional road use tax funds for road construction and maintenance.



## Meet West Des Moines' new Fire Chief

City Manager Tom Hadden has selected Craig Leu to serve as the new Fire Chief for the City of West Des Moines. Leu will begin his employment with the City on July 27, 2015.

The position was previously held by Don Cox, who retired in January of this year after more than 14 years of service in West Des Moines.

Craig Leu has 24 years of experience in fire service, including 11 years in management with the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 in Park City, Kansas. District #1 has nine fire stations and approximately 140 full-time employees who serve a population of 70,000.

City Manager Tom Hadden said Leu has a real passion for fire service.

"He's an innovative thinker and a problem solver who loves what he's doing," he said. "I'm confident he'll be a great addition to the strong team already providing outstanding services to residents."

Leu has a Master of Science in Leadership with an Emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Leadership from Grand Canyon University in

Phoenix, Arizona, a Bachelor of General Studies from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, and an Associate's Degree from Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kansas. In addition to numerous firefighting certificates, he has completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.



The West Des Moines Fire Department employs 48 full-time line personnel, 6 full-time command staff, 3 full time support staff and 41 paid-on-call firefighters. The Department operates out of 5 fire stations, one of which is operated and funded with the City of Clive.

West Des Moines was the first Fire Department in the state of Iowa to be accredited in 2006 through the Commission of Fire Service Accreditation, and it is the largest combination department in the state. The Department maintains its accreditation annually.



Please join West Des Moines Human Services on Sunday, September 27, at Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for the 6th Annual **Sunday Supper In Our Town** fundraising event to raise dollars to assist our low-income, elderly and disabled neighbors.

Share a delicious meal, great conversation and a wonderful evening of giving back to the community. Tickets are \$125 each.

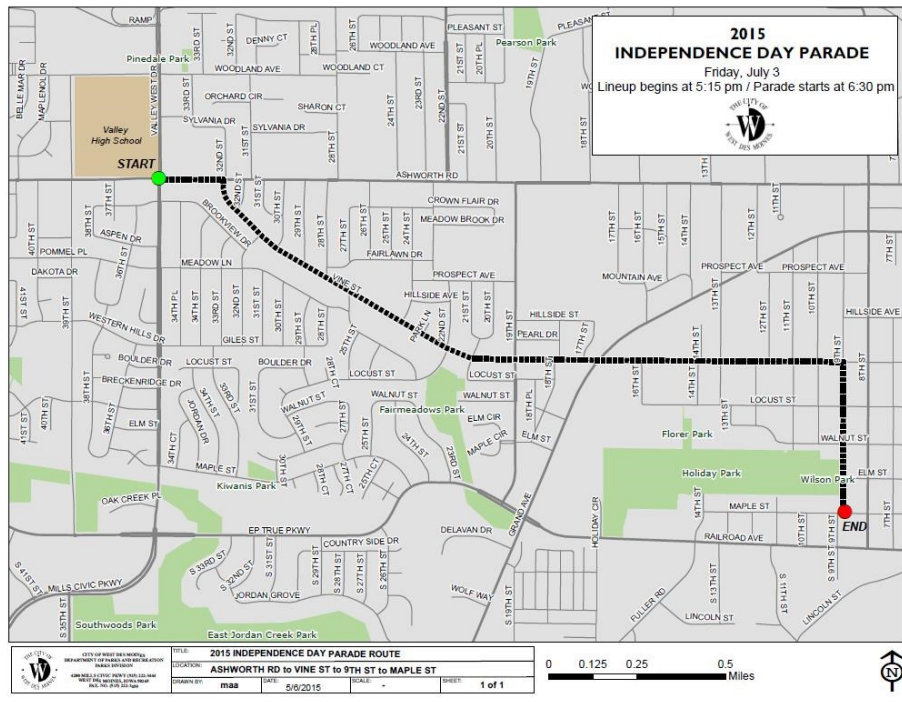
Sponsorships also are available. Please call 222-3663 for more information or visit [www.wdmhumanservices.com](http://www.wdmhumanservices.com).



# Independence Day Activities!

## Friday, July 3:

**Parade:** The West Des Moines Independence Day Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3! This year's route begins at the corner of Valley West Drive (35th Street) and Ashworth Road, goes east on Ashworth, turns south on Vine Street and follows Vine to 9th Street where it turns south and ends at Maple Street.



An Independence Day Street Celebration featuring live music, food and fun for the entire family will be held in Valley Junction following the parade.

## Saturday, July 4

**Holiday Classic Horseshoe Tourney:** 9 a.m. starting time at Holiday Park. Sponsored by the WDM Horseshoe Pitchers Association. Call 681-1937 for more information.

**July 4th Aquatic Center Special:** \$3 admission per person for both WDM Aquatic Centers, open from 12:00 (noon) to 6 p.m.

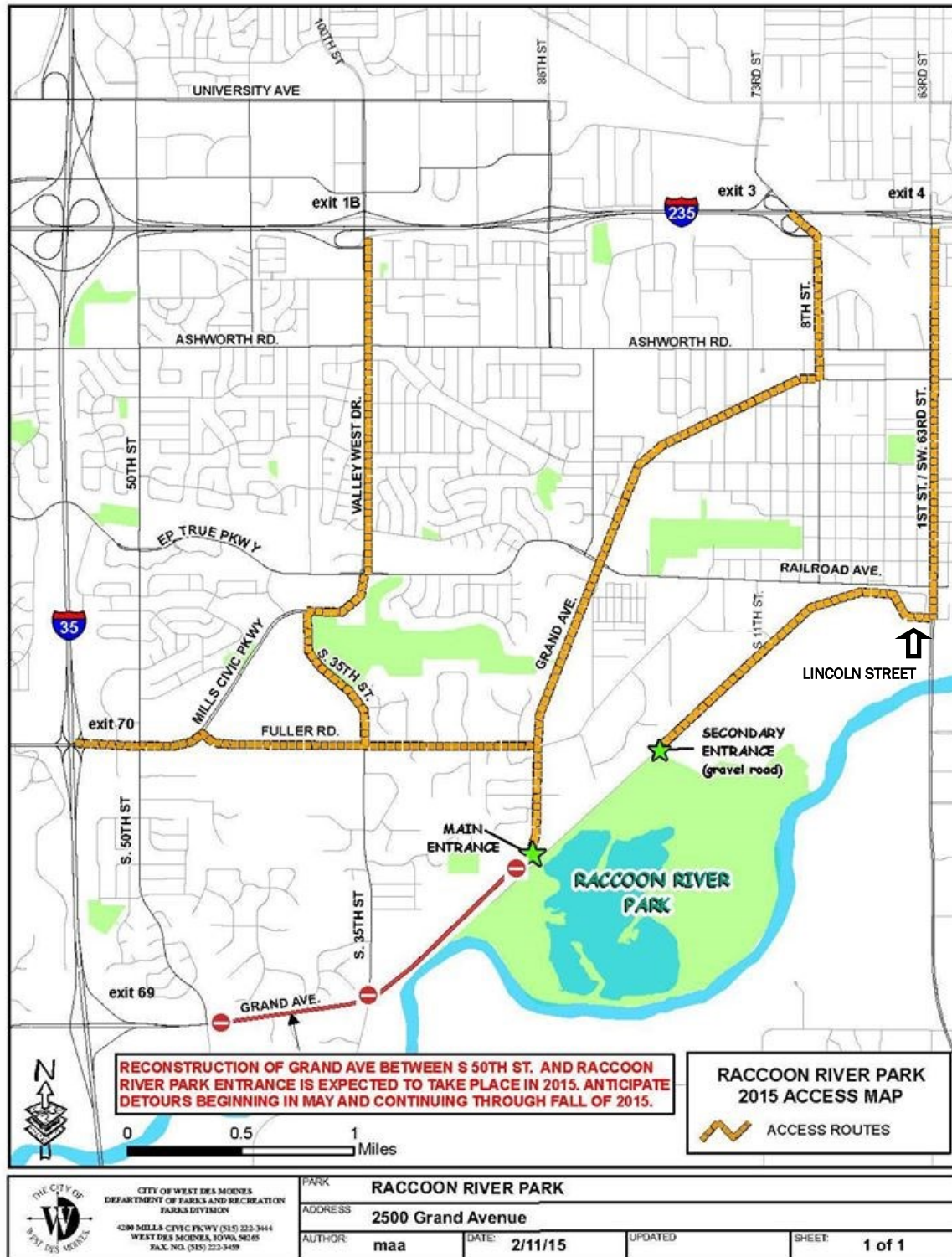
**WDM Community Band:** Concert starts at 7 p.m. by the Coneflower Shelters in Raccoon River Park. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some patriotic favorites.

**Fireworks:** We'll start at dusk over Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park.

**Remember, Grand Avenue southwest of the park entrance is closed all the way to S. 50th Street due to the Grand Avenue reconstruction project. Use the map on page 4 to plan your route!**



Plan your route to Raccoon River Park by using this map!  
Grand Avenue southwest of the park entrance to S. 50 Street is closed.  
Please allow extra time for travel.





## It's that time of year for mosquitos!

With the recent wet weather we've been experiencing, mosquito populations are high for this time of year. While some agencies attempt to spray for mosquitoes, this form of abatement is often ineffective.

In a community like West Des Moines where significant open spaces and waterways exist, spraying is not an effective method of control. In lieu of spraying, the City applies larvacide pellets with both helicopters and ground crews. Staff will also treat slow draining catch basins with abatement materials designed for a slow release of larvacide killer.

The City does spray park areas, however, where large groups gather during holiday weekends. The rest of the year the focus is on minimizing the larvae population.



When high numbers of mosquitoes are present, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention recommends repellent with DEET and long-sleeved clothing as the most effective methods of prevention. Since mosquito spraying creates health concerns for some residents, the City always sends news releases to the media prior to spraying.

Various bike trails and park areas within West Des Moines will be treated for mosquitoes by ground spraying units for the July 4 holiday.

Depending on weather conditions, this will take place during the evening hours of either Thursday, July 2, Friday, July 3 or Saturday, July 4.

So until the weather starts to dry up a little, be sure to take along the bug spray and dress appropriately when you're outdoors!

## Mosquito control tips for around your home

Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one inch of standing water, which means there are several places around the home that might support them. Residents should follow these tips to eliminate breeding sites that essentially guarantee a yard full of biting pests:

- ◆ Clear all debris from gutters and keep your yard free of any toys, pet containers, empty flower pots, old tires or buckets where water can collect and stand.
- ◆ Reduce breeding sites by mowing your grass regularly.
- ◆ Drill holes in the bottom of trash cans and recycling bins to allow water to drain.
- ◆ Fill in any depressions, ditches or other spaces around your house where water tends to gather on wet days.
- ◆ Wear light-colored clothing because it is less attractive to some mosquito species. If the fabric is tightly woven, it can give some protection against biting.



Watch for  
street closures  
on July 12!

The City of West Des Moines will be hosting two kids' triathlons in Raccoon River Park. The Hy-Vee Kids Triathlon will take place **Saturday, July 11**, and the Flatland Kids Triathlon will take place **Sunday, July 12**.

*The Flatland Triathlon on Sunday, July 12, will involve a **closure of Grand Avenue** that may impact you.*

On Sunday, July 12, Grand Avenue will be closed from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) from the Raccoon River Park entrance to a turnaround point just north of Jordan Creek. Please note that the Grand Avenue project closure to the south will also remain in effect during this event.

Residents who live along Grand Avenue in the closed area and who have no other means of egress will be allowed to exit or enter their properties with the assistance of City of West Des Moines personnel who will be present on the course.

For the duration of both triathlons, access to Raccoon River Park will be via South 11th Street. Parking may be limited while the triathlons are taking place in the park, which is expected to be until 2:00 pm each day. The boat ramp and beach in Raccoon River Park will be closed during the triathlons from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day.

Thank you for your patience as West Des Moines hosts these special events! If you have questions, please call Ryan Jacobson in the West Des Moines City Manager's Office at 222-3603 or email him at [Ryan.Jacobson@wdm.iowa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Jacobson@wdm.iowa.gov).

## The kids had a blast at the 16th annual Cops N' Bobbers Fishing Derby

Over 130 children participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Cops N' Bobbers Fishing Derby that was held at the City Hall pond on Saturday morning, June 6.

Thanks to the support of volunteers and local sponsors, the Police Department was able to host a successful event that highlighted one of West Des Moines' lesser known fishing holes and helped promote the Iowa DNR Free Fishing Weekend.

During the event, participants landed a variety of fish including smallmouth bass, crappies, bluegill

and even a frog. Every youth participant received a Cops N' Bobbers visor at registration thanks to the West Des Moines Police Benevolent Association. Donated fishing and outdoor supplies also were handed out at the conclusion of the event.

A big thank you goes out to the volunteers and participants who made this year's Cops N' Bobbers Fishing Derby one of the most successful events at the pond!



## Congratulations to our WDM Police Academy graduates!

The West Des Moines Police Department recently graduated 23 participants in this year's Citizen Police Academy.

The 12-week long, one night a week course provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the functions and operations of the police department.

In addition to a ride-along with uniformed officers, the participants enjoyed visiting the WestCom Communication Center and learning about the dispatch operations. They also had the opportunity to learn more about the K-9 program, use of force, Taser and firearms usage (which included shooting on the range).

To conclude the use of force portion of the academy, the students participated in scenario-based firearms training using the Firearms Training Simulator at Kaplan University. The simulator placed the students in "shoot or don't shoot" situations which officers may face in their day-to-day duties.

Since its inception in 2002, the West Des Moines Police Department has had 336 graduates from the academy.

The next academy class is planned for the spring of 2016. For more information, contact Officer Jeff Hartshorn in the Community Response Unit at 222-3333.



## Watch those plastic bags when you recycle

### *Did you know recyclables in plastic bags are as good as trash?*

More than 145,000 households recycle through Curb It!, the curbside recycling program in Central Iowa. Unfortunately, some of these households bag their recyclables. Does yours?



Plastic bags, of any kind, are **NOT** recyclable in your curbside cart.

When employees at the recycling facility spot a plastic bag of any kind – even if it's full of recyclables – it is pulled from the line and sent to the landfill.



The reason? Plastic bags get wrapped in the equipment at the sorting facility, and that prevents them from getting sorted properly. Separation of materials is what keeps contamination low and the program sustainable. In addition, those pesky plastic bags cause damage to the equipment and halt the processing line.

Keep your recyclables loose in your cart (not in plastic bags), and you will ensure they escape the fate of the landfill. Learn more about what is accepted in your recycling cart and other safe, smart disposal options at [www.WhereltShouldGo.com](http://www.WhereltShouldGo.com).



You can check online to see where lane and street closures are in West Des Moines?!

Just click [here](#) and select the *Street and Lane Closure Map* icon to view where streets or lanes are closed. Helpful information about detours and start and estimated end dates of closures also is provided.



# 2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

**Mark your calendar now so you don't miss these important dates!**

March 30	Yard Waste Pick-Up begins on your normal trash collection day
April 11	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. — Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
April 18	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. — 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Works
May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market
June 1 — 5	Annual Spring Cleanup — On your regular trash day. <i>Watch for new details!</i>
June 27	Hazardous Waste Drop-off, City Hall, 8 a.m. to Noon
Sept. 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 — Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

A number of Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events will be scheduled in our area by Metro Solid Waste Authority and will be posted on their website when available. Just visit [www.whereshouldgo.com](http://www.whereshouldgo.com).

Yard waste pick-up is available for all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for solid waste collection (single family homes up to and including 4-plex units).



For more details, check the calendar on the City's website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) or call the Public Works Department at 222-3480.

## The May “Basket Challenge” was a huge success

A big thank you to the WDM Human Services Advisory Board for their efforts with the May Basket Challenge, which the Human Services Department says was “thrown down” by board member Mary Bernabe!

Hundreds of personal care items were received as a result of their efforts, along with \$3,095 in cash. The grand prize for the collection of the



most items was awarded to the Iowa Cubs Budweiser Club table at Principal Park, which was donated by Sam Bernabe. Board member Sue Bosworth was the actual winner, but the real winners are those individuals who use the pantry!

Thanks to all of the board members for getting into the spirit and helping our neighbors in need.

## School supply donations needed

West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its annual school supply distribution for qualifying low-income households the week of August 10th. Last year, 374 children received backpacks and school supplies due to the generosity of the community.

Please consider donating supplies or making a cash contribution which allows items to be purchased in bulk. **Needed supplies include:** folders, notebooks, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calculators, supply boxes, glue, scissors, rulers, protractors, compasses, paper, pencils, erasers, pens and backpacks.



Please drop off your donation to the Human Services office at 139 6<sup>th</sup> Street by August 7. Thank you for your support!

## West Des Moines Human Services needs you!

West Des Moines Human Services is fortunate to have a dedicated team of 60-plus volunteers who assist on a weekly basis in the Clothing Closet, Food Pantry and at the front desk.

Some of these individuals have been with Human Services for many years, including Irene Reed, who has volunteered for 22 years! Volunteers are currently needed in



the Clothing Closet to accept, sort and straighten donations of clothing and housewares. Morning and afternoon shifts are available, Monday through Friday.

If you are interested in helping those in need in our community, please call 222-3663 to learn more about volunteer opportunities or visit our website at [www.wdmhumanservices.com](http://www.wdmhumanservices.com).

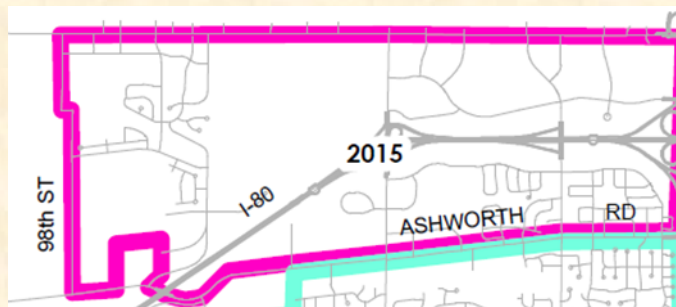




## Construction Updates

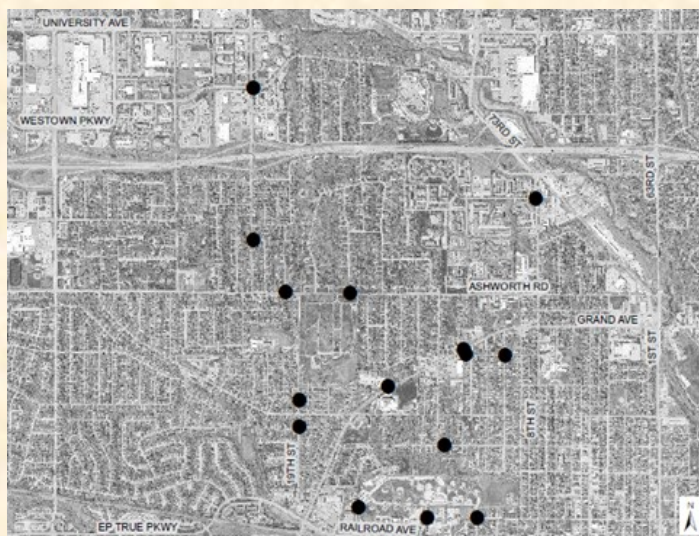
### 2015 Sidewalk Program

Notification letters were sent to affected property owners in May. Residents will have approximately 75 days to make the repairs or let the City perform the repair (in which case a property owner should figure \$12.50 per square foot for a 4-inch thick sidewalk and \$14.06 per square foot for a 6-inch thick sidewalk). The area of the program this year is primarily I-35 to 98<sup>th</sup> Street from University Avenue to Ashworth Road. Public Works has received 76 calls with questions or concerns about the repairs.



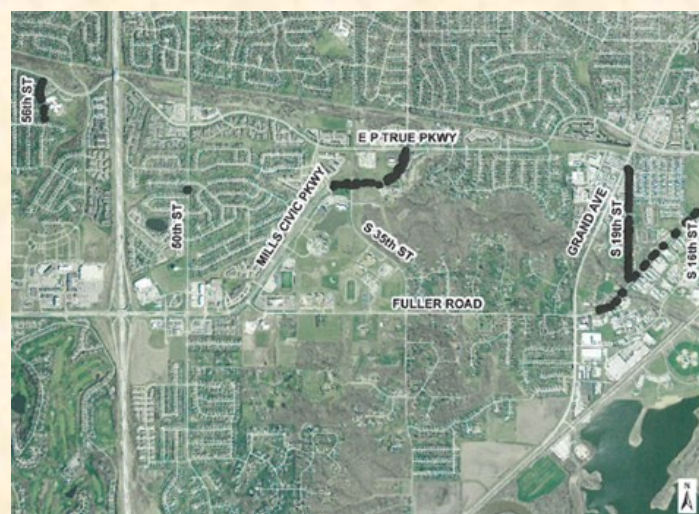
### 2012 Sidewalk Program – Phase 2

This project will be for the installation and/or replacement of approximately 5,500 square feet of sidewalk and 2,000 square feet of pedestrian ramps. All ramps have been poured and backfilled. Sod should be completed soon.



### 2014 PCC Patching Project

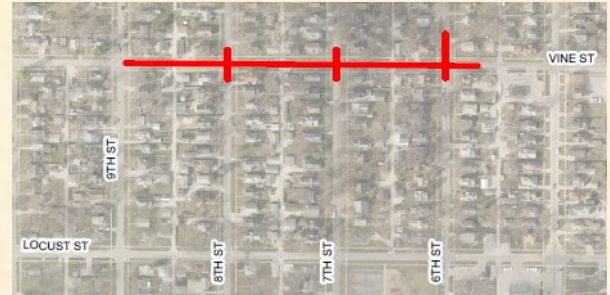
The contractor has completed all locations except for the bridge approaches on Fuller Road. They are nearly complete with turf restoration on the patches.



## Construction Updates

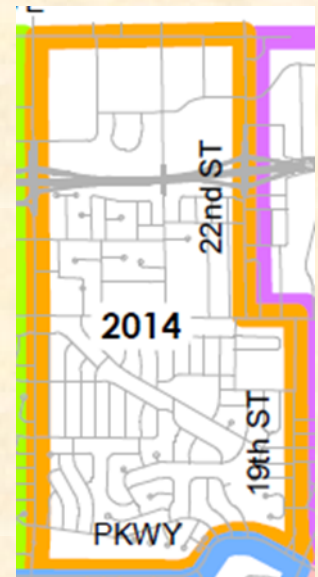
### 2014 PCC Reconstruction Project (Vine Street — 6th Street to 9th Street)

The contractor has completed everything on the 6th to 8th Street section including the sod. The section from 8th Street to 9th Street is closed and the contractor is building road base for paving. This section will be re-opened by July. Turf restoration will likely occur in the fall.



### 2014 Sidewalk Program

Staff reviewed the area in March 2015 based on the revised defect criteria and removed approximately 230 properties from the project. Those residents who were impacted by the review were notified the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>. The project has been reduced to 329 affected properties. To date, approximately 348 residents called in to request on-site meetings, ask for further explanation or disagree with the noted defects. The assessments have been completed and are under review.



### 2015 HMA Resurfacing Project

The contractor has completed all concrete patching prior to the initiation of asphalt paving. They are paving Woodland Ave/12<sup>th</sup> Street, 25th Street and 31st Street. Crews will be moving to the Ashworth Road segment next.





## Construction Updates

### 2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Street) – Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street

This project will reconstruct 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. The contract has been awarded. Mid-American Energy is relocating gas lines and the City's contractor will start as soon as the gas line is clear of the proposed work.



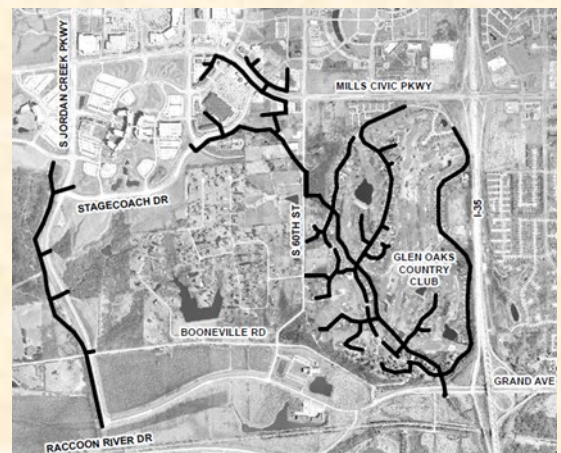
### 2015 Sewer Lining Program

The contract has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



### 2015 Sewer Cleaning & Televising Program

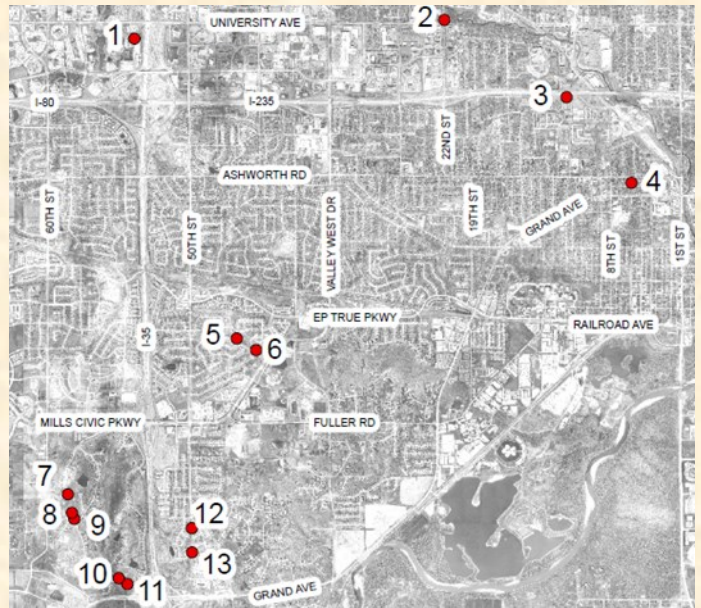
The contract has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



# Construction Updates

## 2015 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

This project will address 13 locations of necessary sanitary sewer repairs. The locations are indicated by the red dots on the vicinity map.



## 2015 Sump Pump Program

This project will install sump pump collector lines along Stonebridge Road, 49th Street and Elm Street. The project has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



## 2015 Valley Junction Brick Paver Repair Program

This project will repair settlement issues with the brick pavers between the concrete sidewalks and the back of the curb. The work has started and the contractor is making good progress. The 100 block of 5th Street has been completed.